



**Council of Local Presidents Annual Meeting  
Held at the 2019 Midwest Conference in Normal, IL  
Sponsored by GLMUA**

**Friday, August 16, 2019**

**MINUTES**

Attending in person

1. Pio Park, UAUS President
2. Rick Lyon, UAUS Vice-President
3. Will Sherwood, VP, Virginia/Carolina Readers (VCR)
4. Danny Casco, President, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA)
5. Joel Wood, Urantia Association of Kansas City (UAKC)
6. Scott Brooks, Ohio Students of the Urantia Book

Attending by Zoom:

7. Joanne Strobel, UAUS Secretary
8. Katrina Glavan-Heise, President Lone Star
9. Jonathan Zoba, VP of UA New England
10. Tom Vasile, President, UALA
11. Marc Boucher, President, HULA
12. James Woodward, member at large

By Proxy:

13. Joyce Patterson (Share Beasley)
14. Sherry Cathcart Chavis of VCR (Will Sherwood)
15. Marian Fieldson (Marc Boucher)
16. Jim Nelson of WASU (Pio Park)

Not represented: NY-Pennsylvania Urantia Assoc. (NY-PENN UA)

Pio Park called the meeting to order at 3 PM Central time and welcomed the group

Joanne Strobel took Roll Call and a quorum was declared with 10 CLP members present or by proxy, without latecomers. \*

Pio held a moment of silence for John Causland of Michigan who recently passed away, and also for the success of this meeting.

**President's Report**

This is our third annual meeting since our first annual held on August 18 of 2017 in Missouri; we kicked off that meeting as the new administration with the precept

*Even though you are effectively armed to meet the difficult situations of life, you can hardly expect success unless you are equipped with that wisdom of mind and charm of personality which enable you to win the hearty support and co-operation of your fellows. You cannot hope for a large measure of success in either secular or religious work unless you can learn how to persuade your fellows, to prevail with men. You simply must have tact and tolerance: 160:1.9 (1774.1)*

The new administration's tenet was quoted from Dr. William S. Sadler's "publication mandate" to the Forum on April 4, 1955:

- *You whom have dedicated our lives to the service of the book and the brotherhood can little realize the import of our doings;*
- *You will doubtless live and die without fully realizing that we are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world;*
- *The future is not open to our mortal comprehensions, but will do well to diligently study the order, plan and methods of progressions (as enacted in the earth life of Michael - when word became flesh);*
- *You are becoming actors in an ensuing episode when the word is made book;*
- *You must again study the times of Jesus on earth; did it evolve slowly and unfold naturally: or did it come with sudden show of force with spectacular exhibitions of power? Was it evolutionary or revolutionary?*
- *You must learn to possess your souls in patience;*
- *Over rapid growth would be suicidal;*
- *The book is being given to those who are ready for it, long before the world-wide mission;*
- *Thousands of study group must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues; (at this time: I'd like to recognize Jeffery wattles and his lovely wife Hagiko whom for over the past decade has overcome the gargantuan task of translating the urantia book in to Japanese and now posted in the foundations web site and they deserve our deepest thanks for this loving service!)*
- *Thus will the book be in readiness when the battle for man's liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind. (end quote);*

Our administration started the practice of holding quarterly zoom meetings with the CLP. This proved to be successful by keeping the CLP informed, soliciting their collective wisdom and support.

In our Q1 meeting on March 31, 2018 we announced the re-elections of Rick Lyon and Joanne Strobel as VP and Secretary, respectively with 13 votes each;

In our second annual meeting by zoom on September 29, 2018, we reported to the CLP that our primary duties of the previous two years as governing board were literally janitorial paper chases and reorganization by getting back our non-profit status from the IRS, and permanently incorporating in the state of Illinois. After two long years of work, we are now a legitimate living entity.

This year on March 30 during our Q1 meeting, I was reappointed as president for the second term and elected Share Beasley as our Treasurer; she's a long time reader with solid business background and savvy with accounting software;

Now that our administration, licenses are ship-shape, what's in the horizon:

The universe has many stars which are born and die. Some of our loyal local associations have been around for many years like our first local association in Hawaii (HULA). Other smaller local associations which have been keeping the flags up; were like the lonely outpost in the movie "Dancing with Wolves." Still loyal, paying dues, members and supporters of UAUS;

The officers and leaders of these outposts are far and few in between mainly due to the lack of volunteers. Last but not least the minimum membership of ten. So far, as long as they were due paying we have maintained these associations on our roster;

\* FYI: the list of active local associations in good standing in 2018 were fourteen:

1. Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA)
2. Hawaii Urantia Local Association (HULA)
3. Lone Star Urantia Association
4. New York - Pennsylvania URANTIA Association
5. Ohio Students of the Urantia Book
6. Southwest URANTIA Readers Family (SURF)\*
7. Spirit of Oklahoma\*
8. URANTIA Association of Florida (UAF)
9. Urantia Association of Los Angeles (UALA)
10. Virginia Carolina Readers
11. Washington State URANTIA Association (WSUA)
12. Alaska UA
13. Oregon URANTIA Association
14. Urantia Association of Kansas City (UAKC)

Since then we sadly lost SURF due to their voluntary dissolution. We may be in danger of further losses mainly due to aging and graduations like Eddie King of SKS.

Clash of the galaxies:

Meanwhile, UAI has been growing greatly especially in South America, Africa and Europe. Like the Andromeda galaxy that will eventually collide with our Milky Way;

UAI is now revising their current by-laws to manage its global membership which we may be subject to be in compliance and this may reach down to include our local associations officers and memberships.

#### IN OUR BY-LAWS Article 4: Organizational Structure

*The officers of UAUS shall be called the UAUS Governing Board. Officers shall be selected from Local Association members in good standing and elected for two-year terms, staggered with half the officers elected each year as follows: The President and Treasurer are elected in the same year alternating with the Vice President and Secretary who are elected the following year. A Board member may be re-elected only once, after two successive terms, the officer must vacate the Governing Board and remain without office for at least a year, but may be elected again to any office at the next Annual Meeting. The Governing Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer:*

Which leads to the question: UAUS as the sole national representative for the U.S.A. which are in compliance (as above stated in our by-laws); should the UAI reach down to our local association levels on compliance of minimum number of members and terms of officers? These issues are one rare disagreement within the governing board.

Possible solutions:

Secretary Joanne Strobel has kindly volunteered to be part of the revision committee of the UAI; she would be an invaluable source to advise the CLP.

VP Rick Lyon has been praying and brain storming on how to fix this requirement. (He will have a presentation for us later).

Another idea would be to open up our association roster to the members of UB Fellowship societies who by agreeing to our by-laws, declaration of trust and the publication mandate; for instance, I heard that Wisconsin was contemplating joining the UAUS few years ago and I'd say welcome!

With the digital evolution we can utilize zoom, skype and go to meetings to our advantage, fix our quarterly CLP meetings in the by-laws as policy and maintain our memberships.

Consolidation would be another solution like GLMUA; for example for those lonely outposts like Alaska, Idaho, etc., could be consolidated with say WSUA, Oregon as N.W.U.A.

From janitor to bridge builder:

This will be my last term and part of our duties will be to lay the bridge for our next administration and help build a pathway for future works.

One of my failures was not to host a national conference; (albeit hampered by Caligastia's regional demon Péle); however, we have the opportunity to host the international conference in 2024. Our loyal sister Marian Hughes who represented UAUS attending this July's European conference in Estonia will have an update on this.

Mission & vision statement:

Since our incorporation i asked our V.P. to draft a mission and vision statement which he has endeavored to draft. The subject matter is exactly what it states what our mission is and how do we envision us to achieve that?

The subject is too long so I'm attaching Rick's original draft and my hack job as an attachment. I'm asking each and every one of the CLPs to read and submit to the governing board your input so we can come up with one. (Perhaps we could have a competition with a prize say free registration to the international conference or ticket to Hawaii to meet HULA)?

Some say why don't we just follow UAI's mission/vision statement. I beg to differ we are our own ship representing a nation that the fifth epochal revelation was first revealed and we need our Midwest wisdom and have our own mission and vision. This is a fact other nations look to U.S.A. as their role model. Our sheer size dictates that we should have our own identity. Other national association equates to a size of one of our states.

Lastly, i want to thank my fellow governing board members (all eminently qualified for my position); and you council of local presidents for your support and lastly to the generous counsel from the past presidents!

In closing the state of urantia association of the United States is well and sound.  
Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted @ Your Loving Service  
Pio Park  
President, UAUS  
piomobile@icloud.com

### **Vice President's Report**

Rick Lyon recognized thee leaders in the Urantia community who recently graduated; Linda Buselli, Mark Bloomfield (aka "Johnny Appleseed") and John Causland.

Rick has been working on fixing the CLP mailing list and hopes to finish it after this weekend conference.

*The Urantia Book* was mentioned recently by a staffer on the Howard Stern Show and it generated 45,000 views in five days.

Here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-f9YyH1vzM>

There has been growing concern about how UAUS can reinvent itself as Local Associations languish and some go inactive. Our “current business model” used to be the best way to get things done. Rick proposes a new model and new set of tools to reflect the changing landscape of Urantia readership and potential UAI membership.

Here is Rick’s proposal in its entirety.

### **Reinventing UAUS for the Future**

UAUS as an organization has a spiritual mission, the most valuable mission on this planet today, but no growth. In fact we are diminishing as more and more of our local associations become inactive or shut down.

Over the past year, UAUS lost two of our most active and long standing associations: SURF and SKS. For several years, during this current UAUS administration and past ones, the issue of what to do about inactive associations has been a big and growing issue. We have looked at downsizing associations, upsizing associations, making it easier to become members, and other ideas.

Our local associations are withering away as our membership ages and there are no younger people attracted to serving in our leadership positions, administrative roles, or service opportunities.

I think we have done all we can at the international, national, and local levels to make our current business model work. I believe it is time to step boldly and with courage into the future. And, UAUS should lead the way.

Our current business model was once the best way to get things done. But today, people are resistant to authority; too busy to attend boring meetings; don’t have the money to travel, are disinterested in administrative work, and fearful of public leadership.

We compete with all of the entertaining stimulus available in today’s world. Some people do not want the responsibility of serving a term on some board or committee. They don’t want to get beat up for trying to do something good. People don’t want to take on more stress in their lives by dealing with organizations problems – but that is what leadership is, solving problems.

I believe that it is our organization’s business model, the way we are organized and function that has grown old and tired. We need a new model that young people understand and are familiar with. We need a new set of tools that help our older members do things quicker, easier, and cheaper.

Let me offer a proposal of how we might reorganize to reinvent UAUS. First, with almost every reorganization of any organization, the name is changed to reflect a new beginning. I would like for us to consider changing the name of our organization.

Second, I propose that UAUS become what I call “a social media organization”. I suggest that we create a virtual headquarters for UAUS using an association management system that will be our live 24/7 virtual headquarters for UAUS. All our operations and functions and communications could originate from this online resource. This virtual headquarters could be the social center, organizational hub, and administrative facility for all UAUS activity. It could be the online store of resources for our members to use in whatever project they choose to disseminate the teachings of The Urantia Book and to serve the people of this nation; UAUS could be the place to go whenever people want to do something for this revelation or need something from it. THE place to go and the place to be for all things Urantia.

People would create personal profiles that can be as public or private as they wish, and update their own information. In this way UAUS will always know who our friends and members are and their desired level of activity.

People can join UAUS at three levels:

1. Friend of UAUS – free profile listing. Limited access of our virtual headquarters beyond the home page.
2. Member of UAUS - has access to view our resources except things like board meetings. Could volunteer to serve on a project, etc.
3. Leader of UAUS – This is a paid membership with full access to all the features of the virtual headquarters with voting rights in UAUS meetings. Able to create projects, post materials in library, host online SG using UAUS Zoom, eligible to run for board position.

Our virtual headquarters could have a Zoom video conferencing set up to host meetings, study groups, video presentations, and classes.

We would have a project area for creating and managing Urantia related projects.

There will not be any formal local associations as we have now. Any group associations that develop will be created naturally and evolve from people joining together in a project group within the project forum. UAUS can provide them a platform from which to do their project.

We can offer a library where Leaders can post videos and presentations.

We can create an online Urantia school or incorporate UBIS into our list of available resources.

Funding of this project would come through paid memberships, fund raising events. Perhaps we can request a grant from UAI to fund the initial virtual headquarters construction.

The UAUS Virtual Headquarters will allow UAUS to function with the minimum amount of administration.

I have looked into association management systems that will do all the things we need to get us modernized, organized, and energized. By providing resources, tools, communication, guidance, experience, and leadership we can help our members do all those Urantia related service projects they want to do. I see UAUS as a facilitator for individuals to create and accomplish service projects in our quest to bring the message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man to this country.

The two best Association management systems today seem to be YourMembership.com and WildApricot.com. From what I have found,

Yourmembership.com is the best and most complete because it will give us our own internal Facebook style social media platform for member interaction.

Wild Apricot is very good but doesn't offer the social media platform.

YourMembership is the more expensive of the two. I had a telephone meeting with YourMembership and confirmed that they can do all that I believe we need it to do and more.

Of course, there are many details that need to be worked out. But today, I want to suggest to the CLP that we consider forming an ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of this idea, the possibilities this idea presents, and even alternatives to this idea. If the CLP approves the committee and if the committee produces a proposal that the CLP wishes to adopt then we will need to ask UAI for a waiver from the UAI Charter and Bylaws in order for us to explore a new organizational structure and functionality and lead this experiment to discover our future.

Building such a virtual headquarters using an association management system won't be quick or cheap but we have the money to do it. I do believe that reinventing UAUS is critical for the future of our organization and this revelation here in the United States.

We all know young people in this community. Let's invite them to help us build this virtual headquarters. What we are doing or rather how we are doing it, is clearly no longer working so let's try something new and innovative. Watching our organization fade into the sunset just when this revelation is catching on, to me, is unthinkable and unacceptable.

**Secretary's Report**

Will Sherwood moved to pass on the reading of the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. Marian Hughes seconded. The minutes were approved and accepted by unanimous vote..

### **Treasurer's Report**

Share Beasley reported that as of July 31, the UAUS treasury balance is **\$37,346.06**.

**Membership dues should be mailed to:** PO Box 6915, Seffner, FL 33583-6915

### **ISB Governance Committee Resolution – Rick Lyon**

Rick reported that he submitted the resolution to the Representative Council. They have not acted on it yet but are looking at it.

### **Mission and Vision Statements - Pio Park**

This discussion was postponed until Local Associations have had an opportunity to read them and respond.

### **Policy on Financial Incentive for Local Association Conferences**

Rick Lyon presented the following potential resolution:

*Whereas* the Governing Board of Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) desires to encourage local associations to host local conferences, events, and projects for students of The Urantia Book in their area; and

*Whereas* UAUS has a restricted fund available for loans to associations hosting Urantia conferences; be it therefore

*Resolved*, that Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) may provide grants to support local association conferences, events, and projects in the amount not to exceed \$500 per association per year. An additional \$500 may be granted to any UAUS local association that is awarded the hosting of the annual UAUS CLP in-person meeting at their event. These funds are to be used only for expenses of the designated event. Unused funds are to be returned to UAUS within 90 days of the event. Availability of these funds shall be determined annually and limited by the UAUS budget.

Any UAUS local association requesting such grant must be listed as in good standing with Urantia Association International and UAUS, current with annual membership dues to UAUS for the past three consecutive years or since chartering with UAI whichever is shorter, and currently considered an active association by UAUS.

The local association must send a written request to the UAUS president stating the amount requested and the purpose for the grant and details of the event to be funded. The UAUS Governing Board shall vote to approve or decline each request based on the information provided. Should the event for which the grant is

approved be cancelled, the grant funds shall be returned to UAUS within 30 days of the cancellation of the event.

A motion to accept was made by Will Sherwood, and a second by Katrina Glavan-Heise. The resolution passed after a unanimous vote. .

### **2024 Conference**

Earlier in the meeting, Pio had announced that he assigned Marian Hughes the task of planning an International Conference in 2024.

Marian reported that Chris Wood and Antonio Schaeffer approached her and said that the US is next in line to hold an International Conference. Ideally plans should be announced at the Peru Conference in 2021. Marian said she talked it up with Pio and Rick. They agreed that the location should be on everyone's "bucket list."

Chicago was considered since Urantia Foundation is located there and would be a draw for international guests. . However, hotels are very expensive. Other possibilities are DC and Las Vegas. Latin Americans would like Miami.

The facility will have to be able to accommodate at least 300 people.

Our bid must be submitted within 6 months to a year – approximately late spring.

Chris Wood commented that a bid from UAUS would be looked upon favorably. Canada hosted the last North American conference. The USA has not hosted one since 2004, when it was held at Dominican University of Chicago.

### **Proposal from UALA**

Tom Vasile discussed the **Urantia Family Life Committee** that he and his wife Marie have formed. Their mission is to serve the families of Urantia Book readers by ensuring that there is a program for young people at every conference. They are launching a questionnaire to ascertain the needs of families with children and grandchildren (ages, etc.) Tom made a motion requesting that UAUS endorse their project and send out their questionnaire to the eTapestry mailing list. Will Sherwood agreed to second the motion.

Further discussion ensued.

- Our Association has a youth committee. We should include them in all this.
- UAI has a Privacy Policy that governs UAUS; it must be adhered to.
- There is currently a poll under review by the Communications Committee.
- They should reach out to the 2020 Vancouver Conference planners.
- The governing board should review the survey first before committing.

The decision was made to postpone a final resolution until the governing board has had to review the questionnaire.

### **Local Association Reports**

HULA is hosting a big event on September 25.

UAF is planning a one day conference in 202 called Personal Ministry, in conjunction with the local ABC Society. Florida has many readers who are unaffiliated.

UANE had their annual spring meeting and retreat, with a great turnout of over 30 people. They have rented the same space again for the next two years.

UAKC has not been active but Joel Wood is determined to bring it back to life!

OSUB reported that their study group of 4-5 people has been helping former member Jeff Wattles by reviewing his new books.

GLMUA reported that Bob Solone was reelected as VP and Rick Lyon is their new Secretary. They are holding a Jesus' birthday celebration on Sunday as part of this Midwest Conference, which they have sponsored and helped organize.

VCR reported that they have three study groups spread across NC, SC, and part of VA. They will be holding their annual mini conference in October.

LSUA is planning A Day in San Antonio for December 2019

Will Sherwood moved to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Rick Lyon.

The meeting was adjourned.

**FUTURE UAUS CLP MEETING DATES - Please mark your calendar!**

- 2019 Q4 – Saturday, December 28
- 2020 Q1– Saturday, March 28
- 2020 Q2 – Saturday, June 27
- 2020 Q3 – Saturday, September 26
- 2020 Q4 - Saturday, December 26

Submitted by Joanne Strobel

Approved on September 26, 2020